(d) if so, the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d)Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has incurred a loss of Rs. 119.73 lakhs in 1998-99, Rs. 133.26 lakhs in 1999-2000 and Rs. 184.08 lakhs in 2000-2001 respectively at Tirupati airport. The major reasons for consistent losses at this airport is low passenger traffic which is well below 50% of the capacity deployed by Indian Airlines.

Indian Airlines is operating twice weekly A-320 service on Hyderabad-Tirupati-Hyderabad route and the passenger demand is adequately met. Tirupati is air linked to Hyderabad which is connected by air services to/ from Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhuvaneshwar, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Nagpur and Vishakhapatnam on domestic sectors and Bangkok, Dubai, Kuwait, Muscat and Sharjah on international network of Indian Airlines.

Damage to historical sites in Delhi

*334. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the important historical sites in Delhi are being defaced by people who carve out their names on the walls;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard;

(c) what is the number of people booked for this offence till date; and

(d) whether stricter laws would be made to punish the guilty and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c)Yes, Sir. It is true that instances of scribbling and graffiti on walls have been noticed in some of our centrally protected monuments. But it is difficult to detect the culprits. However, the watch and ward staff have been asked to be vigilant in order to detect such acts of vandalism and the supervisory staff instructed to undertake regular inspections.

(d) Adequate penalty clauses exist in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 in which such acts are punishable by imprisonment of 3 months or with a fine of Rs. 5,000/- or both.

Supply of LNG from Iran

*335. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iran had agreed to supply Liquified Natural Gas to India through pipeline by the end of 2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that Iran now propose to supply the Gas through ships; and

(c) by when the delivery is expected?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, under Indo-Iran Bilateral Co-operation there is a proposal to explore the possibility of onshore or offshore gas pipeline and the import of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) from Iran to India. For the pipeline project Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) from India and National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) from Iran have been nominated as nodal agencies by the respective Governments. Time frame for Indo-Iran pipeline project can only be known after the techno-economic viability of this project, based on Detailed Feasibility Report, is established.

Export Facilities

†*336. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had allotted money to various States for setting up facilities for export in their respective States to boost export from the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.